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DISAPPEARANCE OF AMELIA EARHART
2025 REVIEW

GOERNER AD CLUB SPEAKER

Earhart Mystery Seen Being Solved

The 25-year-old mystery of what happened to Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Francis Noonan, in their attempt to cross the Pacific is expected to be solved soon, Fred Goerner said yesterday afternoon.

The former Santa Barbaran, now with radio station KCBS, San Francisco, told the Advertising and Merchandising Club about his two-year determined efforts, including three trips to the Western Pacific, to solve the riddle of what happened to the famous pair in 1937.

FACTS LISTED

Already, Goerner, backed by the CBS, has found these facts:

1. Thirteen eyewitnesses and the Navy have testified that Miss Earhart and Noonan were taken to Saipan by the Japanese by air and imprisoned. They were en route in their two-engine Lockheed Electra from Lae, New Guinea, to Howland Island when they disappeared.

2. A Saipanian eye-witness has testified that he saw the pair's bodies buried on the north side of a graveyard of Saipan. This is being investigated by two Catholic priests on the island. Earlier Goerner had exhumed four sets of human bones from the south side of the graveyard, which were proven to be Caucasian. The cemetery is overgrown by the jungle and earlier landmarks obliterated.

COULD EMBARRASS

"When the remains of Miss Earhart and Mr. Noonan are found on Saipan, it will embarrass the Japanese and cause a strain on current good U.S.-Japanese relations," Goerner said. "This is because Japan has formally denied already

to the world that it knows anything of the capture of these two Americans, and that the Marshalls and Marianas were fortified at a time when Japan had those islands under man date in peacetime."

The San Francisco radio man declared: "We believe that Miss Earhart and Mr. Noonan were the first American victims of World War II, since the Japanese were already planning the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1937. The couple were off course in their west-east flight around the world and stumbled into the situation. The Navy admits that they were captured at Yap and transported by the Japanese to Saipan."

Goerner pointed out that Miss Earhart and Noonan whose widow is now Mrs. Harry Ireland of Santa Barbara, had the finest equipment obtainable for their flight. He said that she was an excellent pilot, already having set many records, and Noonan was "probably the finest navigator anywhere."

Their families have been subjected to every kind of press and rumor and they want to know what happened, he said.

The Air Force investigation into the matter was quashed, an official Washington, Goerner declared, while 2,200 tons of records brought from Saipan by the Navy have been rounded by the Central Intelligence Agency. "There is a lot of the matter which we are not sure about in the case," he said, "but we voluntarily have kept it secret."

He told us to stop our investigation, and we want to ask all the questions we can."

LOCAL GUESTS

Kenneth Kellogg, Goerner's UCSB classmate, was the pro-

gram chairman at the Kerry's Restaurant meeting. Club president James Giusto introduced Jacqueline Sturgeon of Ojai, a new member.

Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Maher, parents of Mrs. Goerner; Dr. Theodore Hatlen, UCSB professor of speech and drama and Goerner's instructor; Dr. C. E. Schuck of Westmont College; Charles Nieland of Seaside Oil Co., and Harry Morris, KABC sales manager. Mrs. Walter Moore of the Santa Barbara branch, American Association of University Women, told plans for "The World Flair of Fashion," a fashion show on March 15.